

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please replace Abstract with the following rewritten Abstract:

-- The invention includes systems and methods for maintaining control of an electronic record, which may have transferable value, wherein a user may add digital signature information to a single unique authoritative copy of the electronic record held in a repository without compromising the uniqueness of the authoritative electronic record. Provided the digital signature information is valid, an ~~original~~ authoritative electronic record may be amended to include multiple digital signatures, while continuing to be a single unique authoritative electronic record.--